

Chairman's report



I am pleased to tell you that we have a new Group Co-ordinator co-opted on to the Committee as Sonia had decided to resign – more later in the Arrow.

I don't know about any of you but I am getting lots of exercise carrying buckets from the kitchen

to my courtyard garden to keep my lovely shrubs and plants alive – the water butt ran out a week after the heatwave started and I don't have an outside tap! Many of you will have yellowed grass and dry borders but rain is bound to come eventually – we are in England, after all.

Hopefully, you have all heeded the advice about hydration, sunscreen and avoiding being out in the hottest parts of the day – while still going out to do the things you enjoy, especially if they're u3a things, Don't forget to learn, laugh, live!

Eleanor Allenby

Meet Rosetta...



....our new group co-ordinator.

London is where I was born and grew up but I have lived in many places, mainly in the UK and Italy. Circumstances and opportunities have dictated when and where I should move but despite a very jagged career path, I have had some wonderful experiences

enjoying the things I love most – music, travel, food – as part of my work.

I have kept myself busy after retirement and about 3 years I also decided to join the u3a. My name usually makes people curious as to where I come from and this must have been the reason I was asked if I spoke Italian when I came to my first meeting. After a short discussion, I started up my own Italian Conversation group which proved to be quite popular and a second group for more advanced speakers what later set up.

My parents were both from Italy but oddly enough neither of them spoke Italian very well and it was never spoken at home. My sister and I were sent to Italian school in the evenings and after many years we were able to speak the language well enough to have a conversation. But, it wasn't until I went to live in Italy that I became truly fluent. After not speaking English for 13 years or so, I really struggled with it when I returned to London. I was determined not to lose my Italian in the same way so I decided to start teaching it and most of my recent work has involved using the language in some way or other.

Rosetta Ferrari

Sculpture Group



A wrap around vase! I plan to use it for dried flowers

I Joined Donald's Sculpture Group earlier this year, not because I felt I'd be any good at sculpture rather, who doesn't like messing with clay or other materials!

First thing I noticed was all the wonderful sculptures in Donald's garden. Was I going to be well out of my depth? Not at all, I was made to feel very welcome and Donald reassured me that all creations had positives.

The group is a really friendly one, and one of the highlights is when we stop for coffee and biscuits and a good old natter. I have met interesting people so there is always good conversation to be had.

As you can see from my picture I don't think I shall ever make anything remarkable but I did really enjoy making this. I received positive feedback from Donald and suggestions for how to move forward. Whilst I may not be a Barbara Hepworth in the making I find the process of using the materials very relaxing.

Donald and Janet have made me feel very welcome in their home and I always look forward to the group.

Patricia Podger

Your Committee



Chair
Eleanor Allenby



Social Secretary
Susan Griffin



Business Secretary
Terry Baulk



Events/Outings & Safeguarding Organiser
Vacancy



Speaker Secretary & Risk Assessment
Ann Underwood



Group Co-ordinator
Rosetta Ferrari



Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Jane Ward

To contact any committee member, go to <https://salisburyanddistrict.u3asite.uk/contacts>

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new and returning members:

Lynne Budden, Susan Collingwood, Dorinda Davies, Lindsay Denman, Bruno Drag, Steven Fear, Judith Greville, Valerie Hartshorn, Moya Hill, Peter Horwood, Tina James, Janet Jamieson, Lyn Joyce, Tony Kinnaird, Madeleine Loxton, Fodhla MacGowan, Duncan Mackay, Maggie Mackay, Christopher Maguire, Linda Raywood, Mike Storrar, Barry Thompson, Judith Tallis, Nick Tallis, Julia Taylor, Beverley Vinnicombe, Michael Vinnicombe, Stephen Waterfield, Caroline Wilkes, Trudy Womersley-Smith, Ursula Lycett, Louise Robinson-Woledge.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.00 for 10.30am in Salisbury Methodist Church in St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF. Parking is available in Salt Lane near the Church. Details of speakers for the coming year can be found on our website; the next few are shown elsewhere in *The Arrow*.

Coffee and biscuits are served and, following announcements concerning u3a business, invited Speakers give a talk. Please bring along a friend to join our u3a.



Sonia with her 'thank you' gifts of a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of wine following her resignation from the Committee.

Speaker Reporter

For some time now, Mike Crow has been providing excellent write-ups for *The Arrow* on the Speakers who come to give their talks at our monthly meetings. Is there someone who is willing take his place, please?



Age UK have a stand at our monthly meetings with loads of literature and the ever helpful Sally Fairall to assist you.



After years of sterling service, our Speaker Secretary has decided to stand down from her role – thank you Ann for your efficiency and dedication. We need one or two people jointly to step up and take over the task if we are to continue with our monthly talks. Will you help? Come and join the team, shadow the current Speaker Secretary for a while, meet new people, expand your horizons! Lots of support available if you need it. Contact the [Chair](#) or [Membership Secretary](#) or find a Committee Member at one of our monthly talks at Salisbury Methodist Church.



The next issue will be October. Copy date September 30th. Please send all your news and pictures to Peter Green by email: u3aSalisbury@gmail.com

A year on from the 'near closure' of Salisbury & District u3a

Next year marks the 40th anniversary from its founding in November 1987.

Twelve months ago, Salisbury and District u3a was on the brink of closure in the absence of sufficient volunteers to keep this u3a going. Since then, some things have changed and others have not.

Plus points:

A somewhat reluctant person came forward to Chair the Committee

A new member volunteered to take on the Web Management role and, subsequently, took on the Treasurer and Membership Secretary roles too. As a direct result, S&D u3a is now using the organisation-wide Beacon system to hold all our personal records securely, and the website operates as a focus for existing and potential members to know what is coming up in the way of speakers at monthly meetings, events, etc.

Minus points:

One Committee member resigned during the year for personal reasons and two others do not wish to stand again at the AGM in November, having served in their roles for many years. This reduces the Committee to four people trying to do as much as possible, but, inevitably, some things have fallen away, e.g. outings.

The Charity Commission requires three nominated Officers for us to operate at all.

For Salisbury & District u3a to continue:

We need more Committee Members and helpers. Without volunteers, we cannot continue to provide all that we do at the monthly meetings and beyond. With a wide group of volunteers able to assist just a few times a year at meetings, or help organise trips, visits, events or festive meals, it becomes possible to expand our horizons. No-one is expected to work alone - roles and responsibilities can be shared and there is plenty of support available from other Committee members, and friends and members of this amazing organisation.

The commitment in time and effort need not be huge as long as it is genuine and co-ordinated – and that's the reason there is a Committee. No-one should be expected to do it all, so, as examples:

Terry, the Business Secretary, has learnt the Methodist Church's audio and visual system – with a few more prepared to do the same, any one of them need only to do it 3 or 4 times a year. At present, Terry is the only one. (And, quite rightly, the Church charges us a fee if one of their members operates it for us.)

Ann, the Speaker Secretary, books speakers many months in advance as well as hosting them on the day. She steps down at the AGM with almost a year's worth of meetings already arranged.

Sonia, the Group Co-ordinator, has resigned but agreed to stay in post until a replacement is found. Her busiest time is just coming up as we encourage new interest groups and activities to start up. Again, support behind the scenes is always there, and the Beacon system makes management of the members of an interest group easy for the Group Leader.

STOP PRESS: An existing Group Leader has just volunteered to take on the role of Group Co-ordinator, for which we are very grateful.

I hope that people will come forward, either just to help or, perhaps, with new ideas, new ways of meeting, enjoying outings, or hearing more specialised speakers – anything should, and will, be considered for the benefit of our members. We're a SELF-HELP organisation, so please can we have some help from you? Come and talk to a Committee Member at the monthly meeting or send us an email – contact details on the website.

Eleanor Allenby, Chair

"Our u3a is run for you by you!"

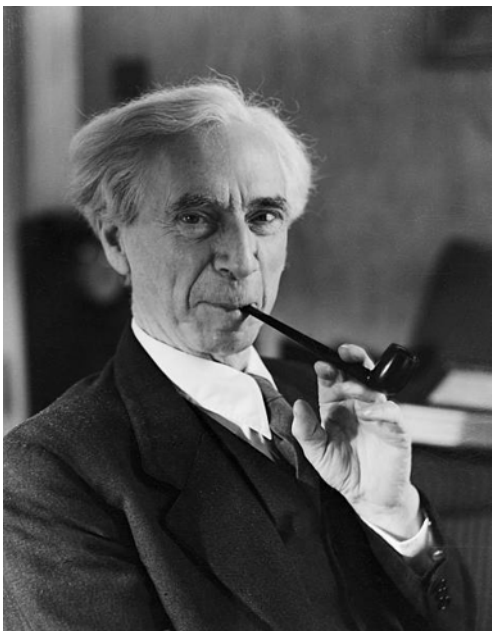
Bertrand Russell

I trust you might forgive a little self indulgence. This remarkable Mathematician Philosopher and Man has for as long as I can remember been an idol of mine. This is not an article on his life or times but simply an opportunity in these troubled times to highlight ten of his most moving Quotes. Born in 1872 and living to the age of 98 his life and writing were truly extraordinary and had and will have an enormous and continuing influence upon his contemporaries and future readers. The Ten Quotes although written over 50 years ago are equally relevant today.



1. Remember your humanity and forget the rest.
2. The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge neither love without knowledge nor knowledge without love can produce a good life.
3. A good world needs knowledge kindness and courage; it does not need a regretful hankering after the past or a fettering of the free intelligence by words uttered long ago by ignorant men.
4. Three passions simple but overwhelmingly strong have governed my life. The longing for love, the search for knowledge and the unbearable pity for the sufferings of mankind.
5. The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation and the first step towards cooperation lies in the heart of the individuals.
6. The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves but wiser people so full of doubts.
7. Love is wise. Hatred is foolish. In this World which is getting more and more closely interconnected, we have to learn to put up with the fact that some people say things we don't like. We can only live together in this way.
8. Men tend to have beliefs that suit their passions. Cruel men believe in a cruel God and use that belief to excuse their cruelty; other men believe in a kindly God and in any case they would be kindly.
9. Mankind is faced with a clear-cut alternative: either we shall perish, or we will acquire some degree of common sense.
10. The secret of happiness is to let your interests be as wide as possible and let your reactions to persons and things be as far as possible friendly.
11. Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric

I am very conscious that Bertrand Russell was so so much more than this brief illumination. So perhaps a little more:



Russell emerged in the early twentieth century. From Principia Mathematica to his outstanding role as a Pacifist and then on to the Award of the Nobel Prize for Literature for defending Freedom and Humanitarian values. He was an avid Nuclear Disarmament Advocate. He was (short term) imprisoned for his public protests but with typical understatement and irony said, "I found prison quite agreeable. No engagements. No callers. No interruptions.

In 1948 he was invited and gave the inaugural Reith Lectures on the BBC. Six lectures are still available on Sounds

His autobiography is a must read. The opening page in is his spider writing and dedicated to Edith. It reads: Through the long years I sought Peace, I found ecstasy, I found anguish, I found madness, I found loneliness, I found the solitary pain that gnaws the heart but I did not find peace.

Now old and near my end, I have known you and knowing you I have found both ecstasy and peace. I know rest, and after so many lonely years I know what life and love may be. Now if I sleep I shall sleep fulfilled. And so it ends there!!

Roy Woodward

Discover u3a getaways!



Exclusive holidays for u3a members We're delighted to introduce a new chapter of discovery, fun and shared experience with the launch of u3a getaways, bespoke holidays exclusively for u3a members and friends. Every getaway blends relaxed, well-

organised travel with enriching and immersive experiences. Designed to reflect the spirit of u3a, each tour goes beyond traditional sightseeing, offering added value through talks and workshops and shared adventures. We have teamed up with The UK Holiday Group, a highly respected name in travel with over 40 years' expertise in creating exceptional excursions. Imagine discovering historic landmarks with expert insight, enjoying behind-the-scenes visits, engaging in cultural activities, or simply sharing conversations and laughter with like-minded people. Whether you're travelling with friends, or setting off independently and looking to meet others, the atmosphere is warm and welcoming. This launch marks the beginning of an exciting journey. Members can look forward to a continually evolving collection of itineraries. Themes include Appreciating Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon and The Agatha Christie Story in Torquay, plus breaks for wine lovers, aviation enthusiasts and those who enjoy the great outdoors.

Find out more at:
www.theukholidaygroup.com/u3agetaways. You can also call the dedicated u3a getaways phone line: 01603 886773

u3a Choir



Salisbury U3A choir, open to members of all local U3As, will be back in action on the afternoon of Monday 14 September at Wilton Community Centre. We sing music of every period from the medieval to songs from the shows. No audition! If you might be interested in joining us, please ring David Davies, 01722 714440 for more information.

I walked in a great golden dream

I walked in a great golden dream
To and fro from school....

I saw nothing beyond its gleam,
Musing along its byways, the pull
Of longings unspoken, too dear
To share, locked in, kept close,
Rolled up tight, my treasure trove where

I could return, regain my bearings, those
Scenes for my adventures' scenarios,
Private places owned solely by me,
Where I could choose the cast and stories,
Open-ended, in secret company:

My trusty mates, cast in roles to please,
Shape-shifting yet stable, faithful, loyal,
Always on hand, waiting to be roused,
Alert for action, to spring to my call
To another tale of daring, of romance,



Of delight –Dennis, Beryl, Jane, all
Glad to lark with my class in Bash Street;
Dick and Scotty, Robin and Tarzan,
Lassie and the Mekon, Marion, meet
Hopalong Cassidy, Desperate or Daring Dan;



Billy Bunter and Friar Tuck greet
William and Ginger, lisping Violet;
Led by me we'd climb mountains, rob banks,
Crawl through the jungle, sail the stormy seas,
Be captured by Hook or Silver, then, thanks

To another John (Little), we're rescued to reprise
The tale of Lassie and her friend Duffle (my dog)
Who gnaw through the ropes to free Marion or Jane
While Tarzan flies to Mars and stares agog
To see I'm there already, ready to take off again....

And then the rain would sink in, or the thinning fog
I'd hoped this time my spell might envelop the school
So it would disappear to let me stay all day
In my dream where I could linger, in control,
Far from the fret of this dismal nightmare's dismay.

Eric Williams

Forthcoming events

5 August **175 Years of Cunard**

Alastair Greener spent sixteen years working in the cruise industry heading up the entertainment department on fourteen ships, including the legendary QE2 and Queen Mary 2. During his career at sea he travelled the world sailing over three million nautical miles. He is now a TV presenter, professional conference host and keynote speaker on communication skills. He is going to tell us today about the fascinating journey through the history of one of the world's most iconic maritime companies. From the early days of Samuel Cunard, the talk looks at how the company was at the cutting edge of the industry. With the help of over a hundred pictures, the audience is able to see how the company evolved and the people who were responsible for making the Cunard liners and ships so special and memorable.

2 September **Animals at War, The History of the Dickin Medal (The Animal VC)**

Ash Jones is going to take us today on an inspiring and emotional Journey through the stories of animals recognised for their bravery in wartime.

7 October **The Creativity of Gertrude Jekyll**

Jane Glennie is an actress and historian with 30 years experience in bringing history to life in museums, theatres and heritage sites. She is also a recognised speaker for the WI and has been presenting popular and entertaining theatrical talks for the past 12 years in Hampshire.

4 November **Talk on 'Chinese Gordon' followed by AGM**

Robert Gordon will talk to us about a soldier whose fame, if not fortune, in suppressing a major Chinese rebellion (hence his nickname of 'Chinese Gordon'); his late career in Sudan and tragic death in Khartoum was to shock Victorian Britain and led to the fall of Gladstone's government. The AGM will take place immediately after the talk.

2 December **The Making of Casablanca**

A fascinating glimpse behind the scenes at one of the world's most romantic films. Sit back and enjoy the story of this back-lot B movie which became a classic from the golden age of Hollywood, forever remembered for its incredible cast of Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet, and of course, the song... 'As Time Goes By'.

6 January **The Chindits in Burma - 'Lions of the Jungle'**

Robert Gordon spoke to us recently at the AGM and returns to talk to us about the Chindits. Robert will draw on the unpublished diaries of his father Cyril Gordon, who won two MC's in the Burma Campaign

3 February **Eric Ravilious (1903-1942: Ordinary Things, Extraordinary Vision)**

James Taylor explores the life and work of Eric Ravilious, one of the most distinctive and enduring British artists of the twentieth century. Painter, printmaker, muralist, illustrator and designer, Ravilious transformed everyday English subjects into images of remarkable beauty, atmosphere and emotional resonance. From chalk figures on rolling hills and railway carriages to farm machinery, greenhouses, garden tools and shopfronts, he possessed an extraordinary ability to reveal the poetry and mystery hidden within ordinary life. Venue:

3 March **The Early History of the Bristol 'Old Vic'**

Sara Gray is a retired school teacher with a lifelong interest in drama. She has acquired performance qualifications over the years including the LAMDA Acting Diploma and also taught speech and drama privately. She still loves performing and now this takes the form of giving theatre related talks to organisations such as U3A which enables her to support a number of charities.

7 April **'In and Out at the Top'**

Neil Hanson is a successful author with 70 published books to his name. As well as his own much-acclaimed work he is also a ghost writer whose clients include many household names. He is a hugely entertaining storyteller and award winning speaker and this talk is about his time running Britain's highest inn back in the 1980's. His account of with tight fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, police raids, rats in the attic, close encounters with magistrates and planners and the shooting of a famous double glazing commercial will prove to be very entertaining.

Stamps for Naomi House



Please save all used stamps, British and foreign, for the Naomi House Hospice for Sick Children. They get £40 for a big bag of stamps. I have taken in 5 shopping bags full since January. Every little bit helps. Please cut round each stamp leaving half inch border. Thank you.

Moiria Dickson.

Walking Towards Donhead St Mary

A sunny summer's day. A family walk. In line,
before and away from me, through long grass
towards a screen of trees in full leaf, framed in green.
The stems already heavy with seed part as they
brush bare legs pushing through an ancient footpath,
swished and swaying like the swell of a green sea.

A picture taken from behind them by my invisible son,
from the pool of shadow they emerge through as they move
towards another guarding the next close-up shot, between
two socially distanced wooden posts that once were joined
by a kissing-gate, I imagine, the earth beyond worn bare by
lovers and worshippers before them, treading their ways

to their fates through the canopy of leaves to cross lawns
leaned over by lichen-lingering gravestones remembering
their loved-ones, before entering the 13th century church, a
window decorated in Victorian Gothic visible through the trees,
where now I find our ancestors were baptised, married, buried.
We're near the Wiltshire border, in the Wessex of Thomas Hardy

(Was he the restoring architect? I wonder) between Shaston and
Melchester, where I shall soon return, closer to my rediscovered
roots, my lost family of farm labourers and servants, their furthest
descendants following. I want them to turn round so we can look into
our eyes' gleam holding glancing flecks of mirrored light reflecting
back to a bricklayer and a lady's maid, Sydney and Clarissa - before

in middle age in Portsea in time of war my father was born, as I would
be between then and a now already preserved for posterity, recorded
for future parents perhaps to show their children, when they recall their
parents and their childhood, cherishing memories they must not mislay,
like this already faded day that lives again as I gaze on my grandchildren now,
growing tall among nodding grasses on a family walk through sunlight.

Eric Williams



Table Tennis

The Bat N Chat Table Tennis Group celebrated the end of their summer season at the Harnham Mill Hotel, with a pub lunch in the hotel garden. The twenty members attending experienced another scorching 31+ degree day, in the Hotel Garden.

This summer season's highlight was an unusual mid-term competition, where random pairs participated in a Top-Table competition. These random pairs were formed and reformed in an attempt level the play. In order to reach the top table, the idea is to win as many games as possible during the 150-minute session. Jill Caldwell became the clear winner, with Hazel Docherty and Colin Ranger as runners up in a play-off with Brian and Diana Heward. Debbie Biggs gets a special mention and was recognised for her Fighting Spirit in showing determination and bold effort.

Bat N Chat Autumn Season commences on 9th September 2026. See the website and posters for further detail.

Table Tennis Training Group, meets for 8 weeks in the Autumn Season commencing 8th September 2026. Vacancies are available.

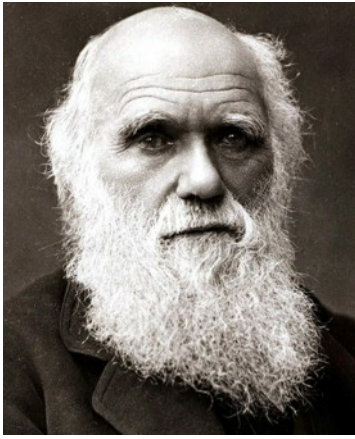
For any Table Tennis questions, call Paul on 07918 125356 or email warranp@gmail.com.

Bat-n-Chat 2026/27	Workshop Group 2026/27
Wednesdays	Tuesdays
09.30 to 12.30 - 14 Weeks.	12.15 to 14.15 - (8 Weeks 2026)
9 September to 9 December 2026 (14)	8 September to 27 October 2026
6 January 2026 to 28 April 2027 (17)	11 January to 5 April 2027
2 June to 25 August 2027 (13)	30 June to 27 July 2027

To express interest please enquire online with S&D U3A or Ring Tina or Paul on 07918 125356

Venue – Harnham Parish Hall, Lower St, Harnham, SP2 8EY.

The Voyage of the Beagle



Charles Darwin

When the great 19th Century voyages of exploration set sail for distant lands they carried, in addition to the officers and crew, professional artists employed to record the places and people they would encounter. The pictures they painted provide a fascinating insight into their discoveries. Making extensive use of these pictures, Dr James Taylor recounted the travels of the Beagle and its Captain, Robert Fitzroy and its naturalist, Charles Darwin.

Fitzroy, with a glittering naval career but given to depression, had visited South America on the Beagle's first voyage and had assumed command when its commander took his own life. The second voyage, which was to go round the world, carried a total of seventy six souls on its ninety six feet length and lasted for five years.

Darwin at 22 years old, although full of energy and vigour, was almost rejected for the voyage but his wealthy family paid the huge sum of £1400 for him to travel as Gentleman Companion to the Captain thus freeing him from ship discipline and direction.

Much of the time of the voyage was spent on land, with Darwin walking great distances in pursuit of new species. He explored along the east coast of South America to the Falklands, up the west coast to the Galapagos where they stayed five weeks, then onward to Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia.

Darwin was much influenced by the artists and their methods of observation and study and spent time firstly with Augustus Earle and later with Conrad Martins when he replaced him, both of whose works Dr Taylor used extensively in the talk. He and Fitzroy fell out over slavery and Darwin threatened to leave but decided to stay, though Darwin admitted to admiring the Tahitians whilst Fitzroy admired the Christian missionaries in NZ.

On return to England, Fitzroy turned devout Christian and argued passionately against Darwin's controversial ideas of evolution. He became a pioneer meteorologist, designed and installed many barometers and created the first weather forecasts. Bankrupt and severely depressed, he committed suicide in 1865. He is remembered today by the shipping area named in his honour.

Darwin married and moved to Down House where he continued his experiments and studies and published his famous books, never again travelling far from home. He died in 1882 and is buried in Westminster Abbey. The Beagle made a third voyage, then returned to Greenwich and was broken up in 1870. Down House is now a museum, and a visit was highly recommended. *Mike Crow*



Spanish Conversation

The u3a Spanish conversation class, originally launched by Maria Villacampo Acaso, has solidified into a tight-knit group of friends dedicated to expanding their familiarity with and fluency in Spanish, (Castilian as the formal version of Spanish spoken in Spain is called).

Levels of fluency are as broad as the backgrounds of the class members – from the current instructor, Frances Fernandes, who studied honors Spanish at London University and classmembers Jeanne Latham and Wendy Truscott, who lived in Spain for long periods of time, to Terry Baulk, a former bank manager whose partner is Spanish.

"I always wanted to learn another language," says Terry. Moreover, when he visited Spain, he was impressed by foreigners who could speak the language.

Whether their initial exposure was academic or pure chance, class members are unified in wanting to exercise their brain, and expand or sustain their fluency. Moreover, the Spanish-language articles that they study on current affairs and societal issues lead to sometimes heated debates (in Spanish) among class members.

This close-knit group also has wide-ranging experience with other languages. Frances Wain, fluent in French and Italian, was exposed to the inner workings of European countries through her career with the European Commission in Brussels. Wendy and Frances F. studied Italian with Spanish at University.

Some members of the group also are widely traveled in Spanish-speaking countries. Jeanne Latham (AKA Juana), who lived in the Andalucia region of Southern Spain for several years, was also well-traveled in Central America. Hazel Jones also was well traveled in Central and South America. Sue Griffin worked for a paper company with offices in Spain. Friends and colleagues introduced her to many areas of the country and she became intrigued by the culture. Sue and Wendy also have become enraptured by Spanish music and dance, especially Flamenco and Spanish guitar music.

Class members are united in appreciating the support they receive from fellow class members. Class discussions and exposure to another culture, they feel, expands their view of a world where borders are becoming ever more permeable.

"I can better appreciate the culture and attitudes of Spanish-speaking people," says Hazel.

Interesting and varied class discussions are always enriching, she says, especially in an ever more multicultural world. The group meets at the home of Fernandes where seating limits the number of participants. The group recommences every other week at 10 a.m., Friday, September 11. The waiting list is open.

Frances Fernandes